

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **January 24, 2006, Work session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION:

INFORMATION: **X**

ITEM TITLE: **Passenger Car- Train at Riverside Park**

RECOMMENDATION: Endorse a plan to dispose of the passenger car, auction salvageable items and dedicate revenues from the sale of those items to the train preservation effort.

SUMMARY:

The train exhibit in Riverside Park consists of a Chesapeake and Ohio steam locomotive, a Southern Railway passenger car and a Norfolk and Western caboose. The train cars were placed in Riverside in 1962 as part of a transportation museum. The Lynchburg Kiwanis adopted the train exhibit as a club project, and have made commendable progress in preserving the locomotive and caboose. Both City staff and the Kiwanis Club have investigated the feasibility of retaining the passenger car as part of the exhibit. Unfortunately the car has deteriorated to the point where preservation is not a viable option.

Staff is seeking Council endorsement of a plan to dispose of the passenger car. First the passenger car must be detached from the locomotive and moved to the rear of the tracks. The caboose will then be moved and attached to the locomotive tender. Equipment has been located to accomplish this task and will require no new funding. Further work on the caboose has been suspended temporarily because of the potential damage that might be incurred in any moving operation. Once the caboose is in its permanent position, work can continue on the rebuilding effort. The Kiwanis will remove all salvageable parts from the passenger car. These items will be sold through an auction process facilitated by the City. Train aficionados believe that there is a good market for these items. Staff requests that all revenues from the sale be appropriated to Parks and Recreation, and dedicated to the preservation of the train. The remnants of the passenger car will be demolished and scraped after any remaining asbestos has been removed. The cost of asbestos removal and demolition is estimated at \$18,000. Staff has submitted a SAFETEA-LU grant proposal that, if approved, will fund demolition and asbestos removal. If the City is not successful in receiving these grant monies, staff may request that contingency funds be made available to cover the costs of demolition at that time.

If Council endorses this plan, staff will proceed with presenting appropriate resolutions for Council consideration.

PRIOR ACTION(S): none

FISCAL IMPACT: none

CONTACT(S):

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ATTACHMENT(S): none

REVIEWED BY: lkp